

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



**NOVEMBER 2018**

**tutorialspoint**

SIMPLY EASY LEARNING

[www.tutorialspoint.com](http://www.tutorialspoint.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/tutorialspointindia>



<https://twitter.com/tutorialspoint>

## About the Tutorial

---

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **November 2018**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

## Audience

---

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

## Copyright & Disclaimer

---

© Copyright 2018 by Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd.

All the content and graphics published in this e-book are the property of Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. The user of this e-book is prohibited to reuse, retain, copy, distribute or republish any contents or a part of contents of this e-book in any manner without written consent of the publisher.

We strive to update the contents of our website and tutorials as timely and as precisely as possible, however, the contents may contain inaccuracies or errors. Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. provides no guarantee regarding the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of our website or its contents including this tutorial. If you discover any errors on our website or in this tutorial, please notify us at [contact@tutorialspoint.com](mailto:contact@tutorialspoint.com)

## Table of Contents

---

About the Tutorial .....	i
Audience.....	i
Copyright & Disclaimer .....	i
Table of Contents .....	ii
<b>1. Current Affairs – Foreign Affairs.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Current Affairs – International .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Current Affairs – National .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4. Current Affairs – Regional .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5. Current Affairs – Defence.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6. Current Affairs – Environment .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7. Current Affairs – Science &amp; Technology.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8. Current Affairs – Banking, Finance, &amp; Business .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>9. Current Affairs – Reports .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>10. Current Affairs – Appointments .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>11. Current Affairs – Awards.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>12. Current Affairs – Persons in News.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>13. Current Affairs – Books &amp; Authors .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>14. Current Affairs – Death .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>15. Current Affairs – Places in News .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>16. Current Affairs – Sports.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>17. Current Affairs – Important Days .....</b>	<b>65</b>

# 1. Current Affairs – Foreign Affairs

## 1. India - UAE Partnership Summit 2018

India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) that was recently held in Dubai, is a specifically designed conclave to promote investments from UAE to India and India to UAE. The focus sectors of this summit are investments in Education and SMEs/Startups. It also focuses on presentations by Indian States who are seeking investments.

This official meeting was hosted by Business Leaders Forum (a unit of India Trade & Exhibition Centre) in association with MSME Development Forum as SME event Partner and Indian Embassy-Abu Dhabi. The Consulate General of India-Dubai and UAE Ministry of Economy are the Strategic Partners.



The major highlights of the Summit are given below:

- Promotion of investments from UAE to India and India to UAE
- Dissemination of information on opportunities
- Information on policy frameworks of governments
- Networking among HNI, Top Business Leaders, Industrialists, Investors, Bankers, Businessmen, Institutions, Chambers of Commerce, Professionals and Officials
- Strengthening relations between the two nations and its people.

## 2. SIMBEX 18 - Bilateral exercise between Indian & Republic of Singapore Navies

The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of SIMBEX, "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise" is exercised off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. In 1994, Bilateral cooperation between India and Singapore was first formalized. At that time, RSN ships began to train with the Indian Navy.

Supplementing India's 'Act-East' policy, there have been a number of such agreements and high level visits in the recent past between these two countries. Resultantly, Indo-Singapore bilateral relations



have been on upsurge in the recent past. Both countries have a full calendar of more than 20 bilateral mechanisms, dialogues and exercises. In November 2015, the robust relationship between the two countries was transformed into 'Strategic Partnership'.

### 3. India and Morocco sign agreement to deal criminal matters

An Agreement to deal with Mutual Legal Assistance in reference to Criminal Matters was signed between Mr. Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home on behalf of India and Mr. Mohamed Aujjar, Minister of Justice on behalf of the Government of Morocco.

The Agreement is designed to strengthen the bilateral cooperation with Morocco and enhance effectiveness and provide a broad legal framework for prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes. The agreement will also assist in tracing, restraint, and confiscation of funds meant to finance terrorist acts.



### 4. 'Samudra Shakti' - Indian Navy & Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise

INS Rana of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command has participated in the inaugural edition of Indian Navy & Indonesian Navy Bilateral Exercise '**Samudra Shakti**.'

The joint exercise has started with a Harbor Phase that was held between 12 and 15 November 2018 which covers planning and briefing on various activities, professional interactions, cross deck visits, sports fixtures and social interactions.



The objectives of this joint exercise are:

- To strengthen bilateral relations,
- To expand maritime co-operation,
- To enhance interoperability, and
- To exchange best practices.

Further, it progressed to a Sea Phase that included operations such as Joint Manoeuvres, Helicopter Operations, Surface Warfare exercise, ASW exercise and Anti-Piracy exercises.

### 5. First-ever Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue held

The maiden Indo-Russian Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in St. Petersburg during November 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> with an objective to explore new areas of partnership including

artificial intelligence (AI), transport, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to expand strategic economic ties between the two countries.

Rajiv Kumar, the vice-chairman of NITI Aayog has led the Indian side at the dialogue. However, later PM Narendra Modi and President (Russia) Vladimir Putin agreed that the economic partnership between the two countries was not corresponded with the political relations. Likewise, the major areas of emphasis were - Transport, Agriculture and Agro-processing, Small and Medium Enterprises, Digital Transformation and Frontier Technologies, and Industrial Cooperation.



## 2. Current Affairs – International

### 1. PM Modi's visited Japan for 13<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Annual Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made 2-day official visit to Japan to attend 13<sup>th</sup> India-Japan annual summit. It was the fifth Annual Summit meeting between Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Abe since 2014 and overall it is twelfth meeting.

Mr. Modi's visit has reaffirmed the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries and will definitely strengthen their multifaceted cooperation in diverse fields. It will also advance the vision of India and Japan working together to promote security, peace, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and even beyond. After this meeting Japan became second country after the United States to have a 2+2 dialogue.



The highlights of this meeting are:

- It was intended to enhance communication and connectivity, technology and ideas, co-operation for peace, stability, prosperity of Indo-Pacific region, and increase trade and flow of people.
- India and Japan have signed USD75 billion currency swap agreement, which is designed to assist and secure greater stability to foreign exchange and capital markets.
- Exchange of Notes concerning the Provision of 7 Yen loan projects (total loan provision of up to 316.458 billion yen).
- To set up a "Platform for Japan-India Business Cooperation in Asia-Africa Region especially to encourage the businesses of the two countries.
- Expansion of Japan's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India under the scheme, "India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership" and the progress made in Japan Industrial Townships (JIT).
- To launch a comprehensive India-Japan Digital Partnership scheme to develop IoT and AI solutions for societal benefits by utilizing the "Japan-India Start-Up Hub" in Bengaluru and parallel NASSCOM's IT corridor project in Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan.
- Commitment to work together with India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
- Linking of Japan's Asia Health and Well-being Initiative (AHWIN) with India's healthcare initiatives under the scheme of *Ayushman* Bharat.
- Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India's Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and the Kanagawa

Prefectural Government and also to promote cooperation in the areas of National Health Protection Mission.

- Cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF).
- Commitment to cooperate on US-2 amphibian aircraft.
- Commitment to the full implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs).
- Japan also ensured to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA); likewise, it would be the 71<sup>st</sup> country to sign and 48<sup>th</sup> country to ratify the ISA FA (ISA Framework Agreement).
- Growth and development of India's North Eastern Regions through different projects such as the India-Japan Act East Forum through connectivity, sustainable forest and ecological management, disaster risk reduction and people-to-people exchanges.
- Development of the smart islands in India.
- Bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, food processing, and forestry among various public and private stakeholders.

## 2. 'Little India Gate' inaugurated in Medan City of Indonesia

The first-ever constructed 'Little India Gate' has been officially inaugurated at Kampung Madras in Medan city of Indonesia. It was inaugurated jointly by Pradeep Kumar Rawat, India's ambassador to Indonesia and H T Dzulmi Eldin, Mayor of Medan City.

About 7,000 people gathered here to witness the inauguration of 'Little India Gate', the first-of-its-kind structure in the country, which recognizes the contribution of Indian community in the development of Medan city. In addition to this, Little India would also be a bridge between the two countries especially in terms of trade and commercial relations.



Ambassador Rawat also said that it was a true representation of what Indonesia stood for, which is '*Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*' or Unity in Diversity and of the Indian belief in '*Vasudev Kutubakam*', which means the world is one family.

Besides, Kampung Madras region is one of the city's noteworthy ethnic enclaves where majority of people of Indian descent reside. The ancestors of these population had settled down in Medan in mid-nineteenth century. This is the reason that every year, Kampung Madras witnesses Hindu and Tamil festivals such as Thaipusam or the Tamil New Year, Pongal and Deepavali.

## 3. India Pavilion inaugurated at Videocittà 2018 in Rome Film Festival

The Indian Pavilion was inaugurated at *Videocittà 2018* event in Rome Film Festival, Italy. At the Film Festival, Indian delegation was led by Shri Ashok Kumar Parmar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Govt. of India, and consisted of H E Renet Sandhu, Ambassador of India to Italy; Shri Senthil Rajan, OSD, International Film Festival of India,

Shri Rakesh Omprakash Mehra, Filmmaker & Director; Shri Sukumar Subramanian, Head Animation, Accel Media Ventures; Shri KS Amjath Meeran, Filmmaker & Director; Shri Vivek Singhania, President & CEO, Picture Perfect; Shri Madhavan Reddy Yathan, CEO, Rotomaker, and Shri Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, FICCI.

The agenda of this delegation from India this year was to showcase diversity in films of India and also promoting collaborations with various other countries. India Pavilion at *Videocittà* 2018 showcased Indian films' heritage, ease of film shooting in India, promoted film shooting locations in India. And also promoted International Film Festival of India, Indian Cinema from different regions, Audio Visual Co Production between India and Italy. Besides, also displayed the daily cultural performances related to Indian classical dances, performances based Indian films, Yoga sessions, Vocal performances, screening of Indian films across regions, etc. happened in the India Pavilion.



India is a partner country at *Videocittà* 2018, an event focusing on Virtual Reality, Film Making, Video gaming, Animation, etc. was organized along with the Rome Film Festival and Mercato Internazionale dell'Audiovisivo (MIA) (the International Audio Visual Market). India's participation at *Videocittà* 2018, Rome was organized by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and coordinated on Ministry's behalf by FICCI.

#### **4. The 1<sup>st</sup> Global WHO Conference on Air Pollution and Health held in Geneva**

In response to a few World Health Assembly Resolutions, WHO has organized the global conference at its headquarters to address the increasing morbidity and mortality resulting from air pollution. It was a 3-day conference (in Geneva), which included workshops, plenaries and parallel sessions on a wide range of issues in reference to air pollution, clean energy, ambient air quality monitoring, children's health, air pollution and climate change, reducing health sector emissions, protecting workers from air pollution outdoors and indoors, and equipping national health workforces to deal with air pollution amongst many others.

The conference was financially supported by France, Germany, Monaco, Norway and Switzerland and held in collaboration with UN Environment, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).



The conference responds to the World Health Assembly mandate to combat one of the world's most significant causes of premature death, causing about 7 million deaths annually. Surprisingly, air pollution in most cities across the world exceeded the recommended WHO Air Quality levels. Besides, household air pollution is a leading killer in poor rural and urban homes. Up to 1/3 of deaths from stroke, lung cancer and heart disease are due to air pollution.

## 5. IORA member states set up “The IORA Nelson Mandela be the Legacy Internship Programme”

The 18<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers Meeting which took place on November 2, 2018 at Durban in KwaZulu-Natal Province, has honored former President Nelson Mandela by setting up “**The IORA Nelson Mandela Be the Legacy Internship Programme.**”

The programme is aimed at empowering young people, who are under the age of 30 years from IORA member states with work experience in their chosen fields of study. This programme will be launched most likely on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the day Madiba would have turned 101 years.



### What is IORA?

IORA was set up through the vision of former South African President Nelson Mandela, and formed by 14 member states who had launched the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in March 1997. Currently, there are 21 member states in IORA which include Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

## 6. Singapore listed as Asia's Most Sustainable City: Arcadis

Singapore has maintained its rank as Asia's top city in the Sustainability Index prepared by engineering firm Arcadis. However, this city-state clinched the fourth spot in the global rankings.

Furthermore, in this study report, Singapore ranked first in the profit pillar which assesses the business environment and economic performance of cities all around the world.



The report noted that the government placed value in noteworthy investments over the next decade, including two new underground lines where one started in 2017 and another to start its service by 2019. Other investments include

the extensions to four Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) lines, the opening of a new terminal and runway at Changi Airport, the Rapid Transit System (RTS) that will link Singapore and Johor Baru, and the relocation of various terminals to the upcoming *Tuas megaport*.

## 7. Changsha Declaration for Agricultural and Rural Development

The Ministerial Forum on Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (MFASSC) was held in Changsha, Hunan Province, China on November 2 with the theme, “2030 Sustainable Development Goals: New Opportunities for Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture.”

The forum was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People’s Republic of China and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In this forum, many consensuses have been reached and positive results have been achieved in the Changsha Declaration on Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture.



Furthermore, the forum summarized results of China-FAO South-South Cooperation in Agriculture, and documented that China has been actively fulfilling its international obligations and making contributions to global agricultural development. Because of this, the participants expressed that China-FAO South-South Cooperation is a paradigm for the global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture, which plays an important role in helping developing countries promote agricultural development and improving food security.

In addition to this, they unanimously agreed to enhance the synergy among the South-South Cooperation, the Global Strategic Initiative with Sustainable Development Goals, support strategic planning and major program of developing countries and strengthening the connectivity. They also encourage partnership of South-South Cooperation in pursuit of promoting agricultural modernization in developing countries and ensuring that trade in agricultural products and investment specifically to benefit people in developing countries.

## 8. China organized first import expo with a disguised warning to Trump

The first China International Import Expo (CIIE) was organized in Shanghai on November 5. The event is designed to reinforce China’s image as an open market – specifically on the face of a mounting trade war with the United States.

President Xi Jinping remarks at the opening ceremony that CIIE is not just an expo, but a major policy for China to push for a new round of high-level opening-up and a major measure for China to take the initiative to open its market to the world.



As per the Chinese State Media, a total of 172 countries, regions, and international organizations were represented at the inaugural CIIE; 82 countries had booths set up in the Country Pavilion for Trade and Investment and more than 3,600 companies were in attendance.

In this 6 days expo, India also participated.

## 9. No anti-dumping duty on PTFE Resin

The US International Trade Commission has ruled against putting any anti-dumping duty on the imports of a synthetic fluoropolymer from India and China. Synthetic fluoropolymer is a key ingredient in non-stick coating used for pans and other cookware.

The US International Trade Commission (USITC), in its ruling, has determined that polytetrafluoroethylene or PTFE resin (imported) from India and China were sold in the US at a less fair value. A crystalline polymer of tetrafluoroethylene, PTFE has a variety of end-use applications such as gaskets, seals, linings, packing materials, tubing, pipe liners, and pipe coatings due to its chemical inertness, heat resistance, electrical insulation properties and functionality over a wide temperature range (ranging from -40°C to 260°C).



As a result of this negative determinations, now "no antidumping duty orders will be issued on imports of this product from China and India."

## 10. Indian, Chinese troops met in Arunachal Pradesh

A high-level meeting between Indian Army officials and Chinese PLA troops was held at Bumla nearby Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. In the meeting, both the officials reaffirmed their concern to resolve the issue and strengthen friendship to maintain peace along the Line of Actual Control.

The delegations of this official meeting was led by Major General PGK Menon from India and Major General Li Xi Zhong from China. They discussed possible ways to boost the relationship of the two countries. After 1990, it is the first meeting of such type where the Generals of both the countries met in a border personnel meeting.



## 11. India increased its contribution to UNRWA

In response to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Flash Appeal, the Government of India has increased its annual contribution for UNRWA from USD 1.25 million to USD 5 million effective from 2018-19 for three years. This enhancement has been made specifically in the



backdrop of the unprecedented financial crisis being faced by UNRWA, which has been delivering valuable public services to Palestine Refugees around the world.

Government of India made this announcement of the substantive increase of annual contribution to UNRWA at the extraordinary Ministerial Conference, which was held in Rome.

## 12. MoU signed between Kochi and Vilnius

As part of the European Union (EU) project 'International Urban Cooperation', Kochi Corporation (Kerala, India) and Vilnius (the capital city of Lithuania), have signed an MoU. The MoU was signed during the visit of Kochi Corporation delegation, which was attended by Deputy Mayor T.J. Vinod, Standing Committee Chairmen P.M. Haris, K.V.P Krishna Kumar and Opposition Leader K.J. Antony from Vilnius.

The primary focus of the cooperation would remain urban planning, corporate planning, transport, solid water management, and water management.

However, the delegation also discussed on:

- urban development policies
- cultural heritage
- democratic administrative system
- modern technologies of both the cities.



## 13. 5<sup>th</sup> World Internet Conference held in China

The fifth World Internet Conference (WIC) was held at the river town of Wuzhen in China with the theme, "Creating a digital world for mutual trust and collective governance - towards a community with a shared future in cyberspace".



The conference advocated the exchanges, mutual learning, cooperation and sharing in the digital fields, and the need for peace and development of the global cyberspace. Several guests from governments, international organizations, companies, technology communities and non-governmental organizations have attended the conference.

#### 14. Vice President's 7-day visit to three South African countries

From October 31, 2018 to November 5, 2018, Vice President Mr. Venkaiah Naidu was on a seven day trip to three south African countries, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. On this visit, Mr. Naidu was accompanied by a high-level delegation including Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Mr. Krishan Pal Gurjar, two Members of Parliament and others.



The highlights of this visit are:

##### **Botswana Visit** (Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 2018)

- Botswana will join the International Solar Alliance.
- India will support Botswana's defence forces.
- India will participate in extension of 2 of Botswana's existing Railway lines through the involvement of RITES, a premier Government of India Undertaking.
- MoU was signed for waiving Visa for Diplomatic Passport holders.

##### **Zimbabwe Visit** (Nov. 2 to Nov. 4, 2018)

- Extension of defence training slots by India to Zimbabwe Defence Forces to train in premier Indian Defence Institutions.
- Announcement of USD 310 million line of credit for up-gradation of Hwange Thermal Power Station – also covering other power plants.
- US\$2.93 million grant for up-gradation of Indo-Zim Technology Centre.
- Assistance for construction of Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre.

- Gifted 10 Indian made ambulances to Zimbabwe, lifesaving drugs and deputation of experts in five specialized areas.
- Agreed to promote and enhance trade and economic relations especially in the areas of mining, agriculture, SMEs, ICT, Health, HRD, diamond trading, traditional medicine, etc.

#### **Malawi Visit** (Nov. and 5, 2018)

- Construction of Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Center in Blantyre.
- Extension of new line of credit of \$215.16 million for 18 water projects spread over many areas of Malawi.
- India gifted the Bhabatron Cancer Treatment Machine to the Kamuzu Central Hospital's cancer wing, 10 ambulances and supply of essential medicines.
- India will donate 100 thousand school text books of various subjects for classes 8 to 12 in Malawi.
- Cooperation in agriculture, health, pharmaceutical, skill training has been assured by the Indian private sector.
- India agreed to allow imports of mangoes from Malawi.
- Malawi has ratified the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance, etc.

#### **15. WEF Global Future Councils conference held in Dubai**

The two-day annual meeting of World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Future Councils was held in Dubai. Addressing the conference, World Economic Forum President Børge Brende said that globalization cannot be stopped, rather it needs to be improved.

The objective of this Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils was to convene the world's best network of experts to identify new ideas and models, which can be applied to critical global challenges to improve it. Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum also have attended the opening session.



#### **16. Vice President Naidu visited France to attend the Paris Peace Forum**

Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Vice President of India visited France to attend the Paris Peace Forum. The peace forum is held to commemorate the armistice of World War I at *Arc de Triomphe*, which is a tribute to a large number of Indian soldiers who participated and sacrificed their lives in the World War I. The centenary forum was presided over by the French President, Emmanuel Macron.



Governments of more than 50 countries have participated in the forum. Furthermore, the objective of the Paris Peace Forum is to set up a global platform to re-affirm the importance of multilateralism, international co-operation and reform of global governance institutions.

### 17. US exempted India from certain sanctions

As per the recent report, the United States has exempted India by not imposing certain sanctions in reference to the development of the strategically-located Chabahar Port in Iran. Further, US also gave green signal to the construction of the railway line connecting it with Afghanistan.

Such decision by the Trump administration, who just a day before imposed the toughest ever sanctions on Iran and is very restrictive in giving exemptions, is of course considered as the recognition of India's role in the development of the port on the Gulf of Oman, which is of immense strategic importance for the reconstruction of war-torn Afghanistan by Washington.



### 18. Sugar exports from India to China

As per the contract for exporting 50,000 tons of raw sugar, export of raw sugar from India to China will begin from next year. The Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and COFCO, a Government of China run public sector company have made an agreement of such export.

This a result of initiative taken by the Ministry of Commerce and several rounds of meetings held between officials of both countries. Resultantly,.



As per the agreement, India will export 2 MT of raw sugar to China beginning from next year. Raw sugar is the second product after non-basmati rice that China will import from India. This move will reduce the USD 60 billion trade deficit that China has with India. In the financial year 2017-18, India's export to China was USD 33 billion while imports from China was at USD 76.2 billion.

### 19. ISPRL signs MoU with ADNOC to explore storage of crude oil

Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Abu Dhabi with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) with the objective to explore the possibility of storing ADNOC crude oil at ISPRL's underground oil storage facility at Padur in Karnataka. This storage center has 2.5-million-ton capacity.



As per the MoU, ADNOC is expected to store crude in compartments at Padur. According to the MoU with ISPRL, the Indian government-owned company mandated to store crude oil for emergency purpose. Besides, the initial delivery of ADNOC crude has to be stored in another ISPRL underground facility at Mangalore, Karnataka. This center can store 5.86 million barrels of ADNOC crude oil. So far, ADNOC is the only foreign oil and gas company who can invest in the form of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves program.

As per consumption data of last financial year, ISPRL has already constructed 5.33 million tons of underground storage capacity at three different locations: Visakhapatnam (capacity 1.33 million tons), Mangalore (capacity 1.5 million tons) and Padur (capacity 2.5 million tons). This stored oil can support about 9.5 days of the country's oil needs.

# 3. Current Affairs – National

## 1. Government released Rs. 113 Crore for the redevelopment of six border states

Under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), the Ministry of Home Affairs has released 113.36 crore to 6 border states to improve the problems of the people living in these isolated locations. The six states are Nagaland, Assam, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

The BADP covers 111 border districts located in 15 different states to meet special development needs of border population with emphasis on the people living within premises of 50 kms of the International Border Area. The BADP schemes usually include development of primary health centers, schools, community centers, connectivity, supply of drinking water, and drainage system to procure sustainable living in border areas.



## 2. Unemployment rate reaches 2-year high

Based on the latest study report (published by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy data), the unemployment rate in India has reached to 6.9 percent, which is the highest in 2 years. Previous year, the unemployment rate was noted 6.75.

Furthermore, the number of job seekers are also on rise, as 29.5 million unemployed individuals were actively looking for jobs, which was 21.6 million last years. In addition to this, based on the study released by Azim Premji University, 82 percent of men and 92 percent of women workers are earning less than 10,000 per month.



## 3. JNPT planned to host edible oil refinery

India's largest container port, JNPT is planning to host an edible oil refinery to maximize revenue and ensure captive cargo. However, this port already has a liquid cargo terminal in addition to the four container terminals off the coast.

The raw material for the refinery will be imported likely from abroad and a considerable part of the finished products will be sent out through the sea route. To execute this project, six-acre plot had already been secured.



#### 4. Supreme Court approved Andhra Pradesh's Separate High Court

In a notification, Supreme Court has approved the formation of a new High Court for the State Andhra Pradesh, which will most likely set up at Amaravati, the new Capital of Andhra Pradesh. Since partition and subsequent formation of two states: Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, both the states have been sharing Hyderabad High Court.



The Amaravati High Court will be the 25<sup>th</sup> High Court in India. Its building is being constructed in Amaravati – a city being developed only for the administrative purpose by Chandrababu Naidu.

#### 5. Election Commission sets up 'Sangwari' polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh

The Election Commission has set up 'Sangwari' polling booths in various constituencies of Chhattisgarh exclusively to encourage women voters to cast their votes in the Assembly elections. Further, the Chief Electoral Officer, Subrat Sahoo said that five Sangwari Polling Centres have been set up for women in every assembly segments.



In Chhattisgarhi dialect, 'Sangwari' means friend; so, it would be women friendly booths, which will be handled by all-female staff including presiding officers, supervisors and security personnel.

## 6. Long cohabitation is presumed marriage: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has upheld the “presumption” that if a couple who are living together as husband and wife for a substantial period of time are considered as legally married and the woman victim of such relation has equal right to claim maintenance under the Section 125 of Criminal Procedure Code.

A Bench comprising of Justices, R. Banumathi and Indira Banerjee cited the past judgments of the apex court and quoted that “where a man, who lived with a woman for a long time and even though they may not have undergone legal necessities of a valid marriage, should be made liable to pay the woman maintenance if he deserts her.”

Further, Bench said that “The man should not be allowed to benefit from the legal loopholes by enjoying the advantages of a *de facto* marriage without undertaking the duties and obligations. Any other interpretation would lead the woman to vagrancy and destitution, which the provision of maintenance in Section 125 is meant to prevent,”

## 7. Constitution of New Boards of Governors for the IIMs

As per the IIM Act 2017, the Government of India has approved the process of constitution of new Boards of Governors for the IIMs. Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Human Resources Development said that “The process of constitution of new Boards for the IIMs, which have been given full powers of running the institutions, is a major development because it gives complete autonomy to maintain quality of institutions in higher education and ensures quality expansion of higher education.”



This process is in accordance with the provisions of the Section 10 of the IIM Act 2017. The IIM Act is a historical step of the Government, which for the first time, provided a comprehensive autonomy to the higher educational institutions. In accordance with the spirit of the Act, Government has decided to withdraw the Government nominees immediately who are in excess of the provisions of the Act. This would pave way for wide-ranging control of the institutions by reputed academicians and alumni.

## 8. NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission and UNICEF announced

On the eve of this Children’s Day, NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNICEF India have joined together to provide an open platform to young children of India with the objective to contribute towards sustainable development.

On this occasion, the UNICEF – Atal Tinkering Labs Young Champions Awards were announced by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India. Besides, AIM and UNICEF have also launched a 72-hour Tinkering Hackathon so that children can come up with some innovative solutions especially for the challenges faced by them in school. It was in fact related to the quality of education and safety in schools.



### 9. NCDC's new scheme to promote young entrepreneurs in cooperatives

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has launched a youth-friendly scheme, "Yuva Sahakar - Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme" with the objective to facilitate potential and capable youth who are aspiring to set up cooperative business ventures.



While launching the scheme, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh said

that to make this scheme functional, NCDC has created a dedicated fund with liberal features enabling, which facilitate youth to avail the scheme. The newly launched scheme is designed to encourage cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.

The scheme would be linked to Rs. 1,000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF),' which would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members.

For the special category, the funding for the project will be up to 80% of the project cost and for general category, it would be 70%. The scheme is planned to give 2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs. 3 crore, which also includes 2 years' moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives, which are in operation for at least one year are eligible.

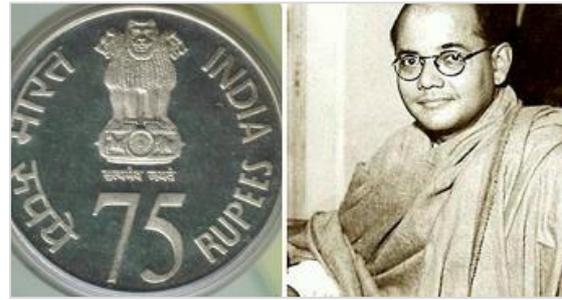
### 10. Government to issue Rs. 75 coin to mark 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tricolor Hoisting by Bose

The Government of India announced to release a Rs. 75 coin to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose for hoisting the Tricolor for the first time at Port Blair. To execute, the Ministry of Finance has issued a notification to release the Rs. 75 coin along with its specifications.

On December 30, 1943, Bose, who raised the Indian National Army (INA) to fight against the British, had hoisted the Tricolor for the first time at Cellular Jail, Port Blair.

The Finance Ministry said that ...

"The coin of seventy-five rupees' denomination shall only be coined at the Mint for issue under the authority of the central government on the occasion of '75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hoisting of Tricolor' for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair". The commemorative Rs 75 coin will be made out of 50 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper, and 5 per cent each of nickel and zinc, and will weigh 35 grams



This coin will have the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose saluting the flag with a background of Cellular Jail in Port Blair.

### 11. WCD launches online portal Mahila E-Haat

Women and Child Development Ministry has designed an online marketing portal for unique organic products produced by women farmers and entrepreneurs across the country. The service will be given through e-platform to bring them together, promote and celebrate their creativity and achievements.



The portal is named as "Mahila-E-Haat", (Website - <http://mahilaehaat-rmk.gov.in/en/>) and the portal was launched ahead of the "Women of India National Organic Festival 2018" which was organized by the Ministry to promote women entrepreneurs.

#### About Mahila E-Haat

Mahila E-Haat is an initiative for the benefit of women entrepreneurs to meet their aspirations and needs. This startup in the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh website leverages technology to showcase the products manufactured or sold by women entrepreneurs. They can even showcase their services reflecting their creative potential. The objective of this unique e-platform is to strengthen the socio-economic empowerment of women.

### 12. NITI Aayog constitutes Himalayan State Regional Council

To ensure sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan region, NITI Aayog has constituted the 'Himalayan State Regional Council'. The Council has been constituted to review and implement identified action points as per the Reports of five Working Groups, which were established along thematic areas to prepare a roadmap for action.

Highlights of State Regional Council:

- Inventory and Revival of Springs in Himalayas for Water Security
- Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region
- Shifting Cultivation: Towards Transformation Approach
- Strengthening Skill & Entrepreneurship (E&S) Landscape in Himalayas
- Data/Information for Informed Decision Making



## 4. Current Affairs – Regional

### 1. Meghalaya announced Rs. 378 cr investment in Aqua Mission 2.0

The Meghalaya government announced Rs. 378 crore investment for the second phase of the state's flagship aquaculture mission. This mission is aimed at cutting down fish imports into the hill state.

The mission - Meghalaya State Aqua Mission 2.0 - was announced by Fisheries Minister Comingone Ymbon at the 5<sup>th</sup> State Aqua Festival held at the U Soso Tham auditorium premises. About hundreds of fish farmers from all over the state attended this fest.



As authority confirmed that under this mission, interested partners have to contribute only 15 percent while another 25 percent will be credit linkages and the rest 60 percent will be assisted by the government.

### 2. Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio launched GPS Mapping of government schools

Neiphiu Rio, the Chief Minister of Nagaland, has launched GPS Mapping of all Government Schools and the Personal Location System (PLS), which of course is a significant step towards computerization and digitization of records by the School Education Department.



At present, the GPS and PLS technology, which can be accessed online through <http://.dose-ngl.com> has GPS co-ordinates of all the schools pinned and marked on Google Maps, with other information. It also carries some other information, such as enrolment, facilities including number of classrooms, power and water connection availability, playground and toilets along with teaching and non-teaching staff detail.

### 3. Goa government banned fish imports for 6 months

The Goa government has announced a ban on import of fish into the state for next six months. The ban was imposed because of the usage of formalin, a potential cancer-causing chemical to preserve fish.

Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane announced the ban and said that the duration of ban could be extended by another six months, if needed. So, until the measures to check the quality of fish are in place in the state, ban will remain intact.

This is the second time import of fish has been banned in the state. It was banned in July for 15 days for the first time.



#### 4. First 'Water Handloom Hut' inaugurated in Manipur

The first of its kind, 'floating water handloom huts' were inaugurated at Loktak Lake in Bishnupur district of Manipur. In these handloom huts, looms were gifted to local people on an experimental basis. The purpose of this experimental venture is to attract more tourists and also promote handloom weavers.

Tripura's Forest and Tribal Welfare Minister, Mevar Kumar Jamatia has also inaugurated five handloom huts here. Further, K. Lamlee Kamei, the Director of Directorate of Handloom and Textiles said that this is just an experiment and going further many female employees will be engaged in the weaving activities.



#### 5. Government of Goa to set up All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy

The Government of Goa laid the foundation stone for All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy at Dhargal. The institute is the extension of All India Institute of Ayurveda located at New Delhi.

This new institute will have a 250 bed hospital and the capacity of 500 students to enroll every year. Institute that includes Medical College for Ayurveda, Naturopathy and Yoga would have hostel facility - 67 rooms for doctors and 91 rooms for 182 students. And, the institute will offer all three programs namely undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD.



## 6. Delhi Police Commissioner launches E-Learning portal

Amulya Patnaik, Delhi Police Commissioner, has launched the force's e-learning portal "NIPUN" and training division website. Suman Nalwa, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Training) has said that through this website, Delhi Police will be using advanced technology in communicating in-service training to its personnel.

The objective of this e-learning portal is to provide online training and information through specialized courses designed by experts in the field.



# 5. Current Affairs – Defence

## 1. Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' held

The 12-day long joint military exercise between India and the United States known as 'Vajra Prahar' was held in Jaipur. To undertake this training with the Indian Special Forces, a contingent of the United States Pacific Commander came to Mahajan Field Firing Ranges.



The United States Special Forces has carried out rigorous joint training in semi-desert and rural terrain regions to enhance the interoperability of the two armed forces and also military-to-military co-operation.

## 2. BSF developed special bunker with periscope to look out for snipers

A senior Border Security Force (BSF) officer confirmed that a special bunker has been developed. This bunker is made up of thick armor and bullet-proof glass, and can be practically lifted and placed anywhere. Furthermore, the portability will come in handy for the force when shifting vigil posts.



Because of the loss of several personnel to sniper attacks from Pakistan along the western border, the BSF has developed such special bulletproof bunker that facilitates vigilance of the border area through a periscope.

## 3. IAF Team visits France to inspect two Mirage-2000 trainers

An Indian Air Force team will visit France shortly to inspect two Mirage fighter planes offered as gift. Headed by a Squadron Leader, the Air Force team will visit France despite the Rafale controversy raging in the country.



Reports said that the Indian Air Force team will go to France next month to "inspect" two Dassault-made Mirage-2000 aircrafts. Rafale deal was done for 36 fighter jets; in the meantime, France has offered two Mirage-2000 fighter planes to India, virtually free, as it is on a very nominal cost.

#### 4. IN - RN exercise KONKAN-18 began at Goa

The Bilateral 'KONKAN' exercise, which provides a platform for the two Navies to periodically exercise at sea and in harbor in order to build interoperability and share best practices has started at Goa.

The KONKAN series of exercises commenced in 2004, and since then has grown in scale to strengthen the relationship. Starting from November 28, the KONKAN-2018 is set to be conducted till December 6, 2018 off Goa coast with units participating from both navies.



The Naval cooperation between India and the United Kingdom is based on the long term strategic relationship. Both Navies have, over the years, undertaken bilateral activities such as training exchanges and technical cooperation.

# 6. Current Affairs – Environment

## 1. Living Planet Report 2018 published

The 2018 Living Planet Report presents the latest science-based analysis of the current state and trends of changing global vertebrate biodiversity. However, the Living Planet Report of 2016 exposed that global populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles has been declined by 58% between 1970 and 2012, and also projected that we could witness a two-thirds decline in these populations from 1970 to 2020.

### Highlights of 2018 Report

- Populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians have, on average, declined by 60% between 1970 and 2014, the most recent year with available data.
- The Earth is estimated to have lost about half of its shallow water corals in the past 30 years.
- A fifth of the Amazon has disappeared in just 50 years.
- Globally, nature provides services worth around \$125 trillion a year, while also helping ensure the supply of fresh air, clean water, food, energy, medicines, and much more.



### What is the living planet report?

WWF publication division releases the Living Planet Report on every two years, which is a comprehensive study reports of trends in global biodiversity and health of the planet. The Living Planet Report 2018 is the twelfth edition of the report, which provides the scientific evidence to what nature has been indicating us repeatedly: unsustainable human activity is pushing the planet's natural systems that support life on Earth to the edge.

## 2. Palau became first country to ban sunscreen to save coral reefs

Palau, one of the significant Western Pacific nations, has become the first country in the world to ban different kinds of sunscreen. Government has issued this order to protect its coral reefs from chemicals.

Recently, in a report, scientists confirmed that the chemicals used in sunscreen causing significant damage to the environment, especially coral reefs. Researchers found that even a low concentration of sunscreen in the water can hamper the development of young coral. Further, studies confirmed that the chemicals in sunscreen can cause localized coral

bleaching and can interrupt the reproduction of fish by interfering with their hormonal systems.

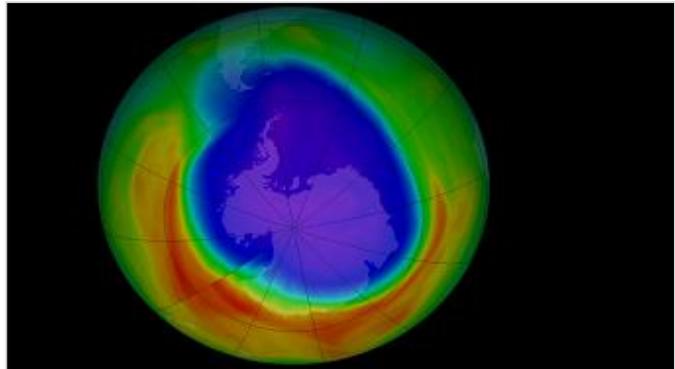
The ban, which will take effect most likely in 2020, identified a few “reef-toxic” sunscreen and defined it as containing one of 10 prohibited chemicals, a list that could grow later – can be confiscated from tourists when they enter the country. Furthermore, the retailers, who will be caught selling such creams will be fined up to \$1,000.



### 3. Ozone layer recovering: Montreal Protocol

As per UN study report, the ozone layer that shields life from cancer-causing solar rays (ultraviolet rays) is recovering at a rate of one to three percent per decade, reversing years of dangerous depletion caused by the release of harmful chemicals.

The Antarctic ozone hole, which was damaged badly, is recovering and continuing to occur every year. It happened possible because of various steps taken to protect the ozone layer.



U.N. Environment and the World Meteorological Organization said that at projected rates, Northern Hemisphere and mid-latitude ozone is scheduled to heal completely by the 2030s followed by the Southern Hemisphere in the 2050s and polar regions by 2060s.”

# 7. Current Affairs – Science & Technology

## 1. India conducted nighttime user trial of Agni-I Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile

India tested a user trial of its Agni-I short-range, solid-fuel, nuclear capable ballistic missile. User trials normally involve the test flight of a randomly selected unit from the existing inventory of deployed missiles to authenticate the system's overall performance and the readiness of ballistic missile units.

The test of the Agni-I (surface-to-surface missile) was undertaken as a part of periodic training activity by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island to consolidate operational readiness.



### The highlights of Agni-I are:

- It was conducted by the Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command off Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Odisha.
- The measurement of this missile is: Weight - 12 tonnes, length - 15-metres, carrying capacity (payloads) - up to 1000 kg.
- Agni-I missile has a specialized navigation system, which ensures that it reaches the target with a high degree of accuracy and precision.
- The Agni-I is the shortest-range and oldest missile in the Agni family of Indian nuclear-capable missiles.
- According to the U.S. Defense Intelligence Ballistic Missile Analysis Committee, it has a range of 700 kilometers.

## 2. Kepler telescope is dead after finding thousands of worlds

Officials of NASA has announced the elite planet-hunting spacecraft's demise. The Kepler Space Telescope was running low on fuel. Probably because of this reason, its ability to point at distant stars and identify possible alien worlds worsened radically in the beginning of October month; however, flight controllers had still managed to retrieve its latest observations. Finally, the telescope has now gone silent, as its fuel tank is empty.



Kepler had surprisingly discovered 2,681 planets outside our solar system and even more potential candidates. It identified rocky worlds the size of Earth that, might harbor life. Besides, it also unveiled incredible super Earths: planets bigger than the Earth but smaller than Neptune.

William Borucki, retired NASA scientist, who led the original Kepler science team says "Kepler opened the gate for mankind's exploration of the cosmos."

### 3. NASA set record with 'Supersonic' parachute for Mars Mission 2020

NASA's "supersonic parachute," which is designed to play a key role in landing its state-of-the-art Mars 2020 rover Mission, has created a world record. The technology has deployed in just four-tenths of a second surviving 37,000 kg load.



Surprisingly, in less than two minutes after the launch of a 17.7-metre Black Brant IX sounding rocket, a payload separated and began its dive back through Earth's atmosphere. It was the fastest inflation in history of a parachute of this size and created a peak load of almost 70,000 pounds of force.

The mass of nylon, Technora and Kevlar fiber that were used in making up the parachute would play an integral part in landing NASA's state-of-the-art Mars 2020 rover on the Red Planet, which is scheduled to be launched in February 2021. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL) Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) project conducted a series of sounding rocket tests to help decide, which parachute design to use on the Mars 2020 mission.

### 4. Facebook announced to launch digital literacy library

Facebook announced the launch of Digital Literacy Library, which would be a collection of lessons in six languages namely Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. The announcement has been made at Facebook's South Asia Safety Summit - in the presence of Union Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Maneka Gandhi.

Facebook also organized a child safety hackathon at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi in partnership with Cyber Peace Foundation and Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi.



With a focus on developing solutions to help combat child sex trafficking, all prototypes developed at the hackathon are being donated to NGO partners to help them in their work of protecting children.

## 5. World's Longest DNA Sequence Decoded

A team of scientists in the United Kingdom have claimed the record for decoding the world's longest DNA sequence.

The scientists produced a DNA, which is about 10,000 times longer than normal, and twice as large as a previous record holder (i.e. from Australia). Interestingly, the research has kick-started an Ashes-style competition to sequence the entire chromosome in a single read and the DNA used for the long read came from a human.



The new holder of the trophy for world's longest DNA read is a team led by Matt Loose at Nottingham University.

## 6. China launches new high-orbit satellite

China has successfully launched a high orbit satellite, which is designed to boost its home-grown BeiDou global satellite navigation system. It is most likely built to rival the United States Global Position System (GPS).



The satellite has been launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre located in the southwestern Sichuan Province. It would be the fourth global satellite navigation system of such type, after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

## 7. IIT-Madras researchers designed first indigenously microprocessor

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) have designed and booted up microprocessor, which is first-ever indigenously-developed processor. It can be used in mobile computing devices, which is embedded with low power wireless and networking systems.

This microprocessor is said to be helpful in reducing reliance on imported microprocessors in Communications and Defence Sectors and will be on par with International Standards.

This microprocessor has been developed under the project 'Shakti' and it was fabricated at Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) of



Indian Space Research Organizations (ISRO) in Chandigarh. Likewise, it is the first 'RISC V Microprocessor' to be completely designed and made in India.

## 8. Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Varaha Launched

The ICGS Varaha, which is the fourth in the series of 98 M offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) of Indian Coast Guard, has been launched at L & T Kattupalli. It is designed and built indigenously by L & T.



The ship is designed and fully equipped with new technology including Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Automated Power Management System (APMS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), and High Power External Firefighting System (EFFS). It will carry twin engine helicopter (one), and four high speed boats, including two inflatable boats, etc.

## 9. NASA's hubble spots cosmic smiley

The Hubble Space telescope has spotted a formation of galaxies that resembles like a smiling face in the sky. The image taken with the telescope's Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3), displays a patch of space filled with galaxies of all shapes, colors and sizes. Many of them belong to the galaxy cluster namely SDSS J0952+3434.

The lower, arc-shaped galaxy has the distinguishing shape of a galaxy that has been gravitationally lensed. Its light has passed near a massive object *en route* to us, causing it become distorted and stretched out of shape.



Studying nurseries within different galaxies is beneficial, as it provides information about star formation at different points in time and space throughout the universe.

## 10. China's most advanced stealth drone unveiled

China's new-generation stealth combat unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) CH-7 has been revealed in Zhuhai (South China's Guangdong Province) - at the Airshow China 2018. It is believed that it is the most advanced drone that China has developed. The CH-7 makes China the second country in the world, following the US, to produce high-altitude long-endurance combat UAVs with advanced penetration capabilities.



Shi Wen, the chief engineer and designer of China's

Caihong (CH), or Rainbow UAV series, said that the performance of the CH-7 in many areas is much better than the US-made RQ-170, and quite close to the RQ-180.

He further said that due to its high altitude, high speed, stealth capability and endurance, the CH-7 can conduct many missions under dangerous conditions, including reconnaissance, surveillance, combat support, launching missiles or guiding other weapons to strike high-value targets.

The dimension of CH7 is 10 meters long and has a 22-meter wingspan. It has a maximum take-off weight of 13,000 kilograms, with a cruise altitude of 10-13 kilometers. It has a cruising speed of 0.5-0.6 of a Mach, and can stay in flight for 15 hours.

### 11. Bug covered 'bionic mushroom' potentially generates clean energy

The scientists of the United States used 3D printing to attach clusters of energy-producing bugs to the cap of a button mushroom. The experiment proved that the fungus provided ideal environment to allow the cyanobacteria and generated a small amount of power.



The advantage of this experiment was the fact that the bugs on the fungus lasted for several days compared with cyanobacteria placed on other surfaces. The researchers believe that this idea may have the potential to become renewable energy source in near future.

### 12. World's first AI news anchor unveiled in China

Chinese viewers were welcomed with a digital version of a regular Xinhua news anchor named Qiu Hao. China's state news agency Xinhua has introduced the newest members of its newsroom – the AI anchors who will report "untiringly" all day every day (24X7), from anywhere in the country.



Qiu Hao says "Not only can I accompany you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. I can be endlessly copied and presented at different scenes to bring you the news."

### 13. NASA probe set to visit Jupiter's Trojan asteroids

In 2021, Ralph is set to journey with the Lucy mission to Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. The instrument will fly by another Kuiper Belt object called 2014 MU69 and it is nicknamed Ultima Thule – in January 2019. Ralph's observations of 2014 MU69 will provide unique insights into this small, icy world.



The Lucy spacecraft will carry a near-twin of Ralph, called L’Ralph, which is designed to investigate Jupiter’s Trojan asteroids.

#### 14. GSLV MK III-D2 / GSAT-29 Mission

On November 14, 2018, GSLV MKIII-D2, the second developmental flight of GSLV MKIII successfully launched GSAT-29 at 5.08 pm IST from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. It is a high throughput communication satellite.



##### Highlights

- GSLV-MK III is three-stage vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons.
- It has a liquid propellant core stage and a cryogenic stage, which is capable of launching 4-ton class of satellite to Geosynchronous Transfer orbit (GTO).
- GSAT-29 satellite with a lift-off mass of 3423 kg, is a multi-beam, multiband communication satellite of India.
- It is configured around the ISRO’s enhanced I-3K bus.
- This is the heaviest satellite launched from India.
- GSAT-29 carries Ka/Ku-band high throughput communication transponders which will bridge the digital divide of users including those in Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern regions of India.
- It also carries Q/V-band payload, configured for technology demonstration at higher frequency bands and Geo-stationary High Resolution Camera.
- It has an optical communication payload, for the first time, which will be utilized for data transmission.

#### 15. PSLV-C43 successfully launched earth observation satellite HysIS

The Indian Space Research Organization’s (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C43) has successfully launched 31<sup>st</sup> satellite from its Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) located in Sriharikota.

The PSLV-C43 launched at 9:57:30 (IST) from the First Launch Pad injected India’s Hyper-Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS) into a 645 km sun-synchronous polar orbit 17 minutes and 19 seconds after the lift-off. Later, 30 foreign satellites were also injected into their intended orbit. Likewise, the last satellite was injected into its designated orbit 1 hour and 49 minutes after the lift-off.



### **About HysIS**

HysIS is an earth observation satellite designed around ISRO's Mini Satellite2 (IMS-2) bus weighing about 380 kg. The mission life of this satellite is five years.

# 8. Current Affairs – Banking, Finance, & Business

## 1. Fitch confirmed IDBI Bank's long-term IDR at BB+

Fitch ratings reported IDBI Bank's long term issuer default rating (IDR) at 'BB+' and its VR (i.e. viability rating) at 'CCC.' The rating agency has also removed the lender's VR from 'rating watch'.

As per the given report, "the removal of VR from 'rating watch evolving' reflects better visibility on the potential new equity IDBI Bank will receive from its stake sale to LIC". The bank had received INR 2,100 crore in August from LIC when the insurer increased its stake in the lender to 14.9%.



Besides, the government is diluting its 79% stake in IDBI Bank to below 51%, whereas LIC plans to raise its shareholding in IDBI Bank to 51% from 14.9%.

The rating agency affirmed that the bank's IDR reflects expectation of a moderate probability of extraordinary state support given the bank's market position, systemic importance and linkages to the state.

## 2. Kirloskar Group gets RBI nod for NBFC Biz

The Kirloskar group confirmed that it has received license from the Reserve Bank of India to launch a non-banking finance company (NBFC), Kirloskar Capital. This branch will be headed by industry veteran Vimal Bhandari.

The company further said that it will invest INR 1,000 crore in the proposed NBFC and it will be fully-run subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines, and will emphasize on providing growth capital to industry with an initial focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



"Kirloskar Capital will be well capitalized with a capital commitment of Rs. 1,000 crore over the next three years. The NBFC will be led by Vimal Bhandari as the Chief Executive," the company said in a statement.

Atul Kirloskar, chairman of Kirloskar group, said that, "we see opportunities in the financial services space and are willing to commit Rs. 1,000 crore of patient capital over the next three years".

## 3. Chola MS and IndusInd Bank renew bancassurance partnership

Chola MS General Insurance and IndusInd Bank Ltd have renewed their corporate agency agreement for a period of five years. This decade-long partnership has garnered about INR 37 billion in the past five years and serviced close to half a million customers during the last financial year only.



SS Gopalarathnam, Managing Director of Chola MS, said that the instant policy issuance process has led to better customer retention and satisfaction for the bank and the benefits of cost reduction have been passed on to the end customer.

#### 4. Digital PCR to be set up by RBI to capture details of the borrowers

The Reserve Bank of India has taken steps to set up a wide-based Digital Public Credit Registry (PCR) to capture details of all borrowers, including willful defaulters and also the pending legal suits. The main purpose is to check financial delinquencies.

The PCR will also include data from the entities like market regulator SEBI, the corporate affairs ministry, Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to enable the banks and financial institutions to get 360 degrees profile of existing and prospective borrowers on a real time basis.



Before this initiative, RBI has constituted a high-level task force (HTF) to review the current availability of information on credit, the adequacy of the existing information utilities, and identify gaps that could be filled by a PCR.

#### 5. IPO timeline to be cut to 3 days from 6 days

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has begun the process to reduce the timeline for public issues from the current 6 days to 3 days in a phased manner. Further, it is made mandatory for intermediaries to provide retail investors the option of bidding through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

The first phase, which will start on January 1, 2019, the market intermediaries have been directed to make available the UPI mechanism for retail investors along with the existing framework and processes to complete the initial public offer (IPO) process in T+6 days.



In the second phase (i.e. after 3 months), the current mechanism of physically submitting bid forms from the intermediaries to the banks would be discontinued.

## 6. World Bank signed \$172 million project agreement with AP

The World Bank has signed a loan agreement worth of USD 172.20 with Government of India and State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The objective is to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability, and climate resilience of poor and marginalized farmers of Andhra Pradesh.



The project will benefit more than 200,000 families of fundamentally poor and marginalized farmers, agro-entrepreneurs, women and other vulnerable groups. The project will work with 1000 Small-Scale Community-Based Irrigation (SSCBI) systems spread over an area of 90,000 hectares, covering over 1000 villages across 12 most climate vulnerable districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The Andhra Pradesh Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project (APIIATP) is designed to be implemented in rural areas which largely rely on rain-fed agriculture system. Therefore, this project will strengthen the resilience of poor and marginalized farmers against adverse climate events by improving access to irrigation, drought seed varieties and post-harvest technology. The project will also help to improve water-use efficiency, crop productivity, and soil health.

## 7. RBI lessens ECB norms for infra companies

To give more freedom and space, the Reserve Bank of India has liberalized the norms, which govern foreign borrowings for infrastructure creation. This order is issued after consultation with the Government.



So, as per the liberalized scheme, the minimum average maturity requirement for ECBs (i.e. external commercial borrowings) in the infrastructure space raised by eligible borrowers has been reduced to three years from earlier five years. In addition to this, the average maturity requirement for compulsory prevarication has been reduced to five years from earlier ten years.

## 8. RBI planning to separate ombudsman to resolve DPC

Because of increasing number of complaints in reference to digital payments, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to set up a separate ombudsman. It will deal with the complaints specifically raised because of digital transactions.



As per the recent annual report released by RBI, there has been substantial increase in the number of **Digital Payment Complaints**

(DPC) and prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) issued by the banking and non-banking organizations. In comparison to the financial year 2016-17, in 2017-18, the grievances related to digital mode of financial transactions accounted for 19 percent, which further increased to 28 percent till the end of June 2018.

## 9. Enforcement Directorate flags Ponzi scheme

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has flagged to the RBI about alleged suspicious activities of a Karnataka-based firm charging it with running a Ponzi scheme in the name of Islamic banking or *halal* investment. By then, it has collected more than Rs. 950 crore funds from gullible investors.



Islamic banking or *halal* investment is an illegal act in India. The ED identified the accused firm as Ms Ambidant Marketing Private Limited, which is run by S Fareed Ahmed and S Afaq Ahmed.

First time, ED has taken it in its radar in January for alleged FEMA contraventions and subsequently some serious investigations were conducted on the company.

The central probe agency's zonal office located in Bengaluru has also written to Karnataka Police seeking all FIRs filed by it against the firm in reference to the alleged chit fund scheme in order to study the case comprehensively and file a fresh criminal case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

## 10. RBI canceled registration of 31 NBFCs

By taking a strict action, the Reserve Bank of India has canceled the certificate of registrations of 31 non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) for unspecified reasons. In addition to this, RBI also cancelled the certificate of registrations of 17 NBFCs, as they requested RBI to do so.



The majority of such companies (27 out of 31), which lost their licenses are from West Bengal and rest four companies are based in Uttar Pradesh. Most of voluntary applications for license cancellation are also from West Bengal. RBI has confirmed that these companies would not carry out any business activities.

## 11. India's economic growth to slow down to 7.3%

Moody's Investment Service reported that India's economic growth rate will (likely) to slow down to 7.3 percent by next year. This is because the domestic demand tapers on higher borrowing cost due to rising interest rates; however, it also confirmed that the Indian economy will expand.

The report titled as 'Global Macro Outlook 2019-20,' Moody also reported that the economy grew 7.9 percent in the first half (i.e. January-June) of 2018, which was likely the result of post demonetization base effect.

This report assumes, the Reserve Bank of India will continue to steadily raise the benchmark rate through 2019, which will further diminish domestic demand. As result of these factors, the pace of the Indian economy's growth will be restrained over the next few years, with real GDP growth of 7.3 percent in 2019 and 2020.



As per the Moody's report, the greatest downside risk to India's growth prospects stem are – the impact of higher global oil prices compounded by sharp rupee depreciation; raised cost of households' consumption; and weigh on households' capacity for other expenditures. The borrowing costs have already risen because of the tightening monetary policy.

## 12. WFP & Alibaba joined to fight hunger

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group have constituted a strategic partnership to eliminate hunger globally by 2030. WFP Executive Director, David Beasley and Alibaba Partner and Chairman of the Alibaba Foundation Sun Lijun, who signed an agreement at Alibaba's headquarters in Hangzhou, China stated that they will take all measures including the latest technology to remove poverty globally.

Further, Alibaba said that it will lend its cutting-edge technology and resources to support the digital transformation of WFP's operations; specifically, Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Alibaba, will work with WFP and will develop a digital "World Hunger Map".



Specifically designed map will monitor global hunger and operations to end the poverty by 2030. Eradication of poverty is one of the key Sustainable Development goals of the United Nations.

### 13. Tripura likely to acquire 26% shares of Palatana Thermal Project

The Tripura government all set to have a dialogue for the purchase of 26 percent equity shares of the Palatana gas thermal power project from the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS).

The 726.6 mw gas-based power project, run by ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC), was initially started in 2014 as a joint venture of the ONGC, the IDFC, the IL&FS and the Tripura government and Tripura owns 0.5 percent share in the project.

The ministry of power allocated over 58 percent energy from the Palatana project to north-eastern states.



# 9. Current Affairs – Reports

## 1. India ranked 12<sup>th</sup> globally in web-borne threats

According to a new report published by Russia-based global cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab, India ranked 12<sup>th</sup> globally when it comes to the dangers associated with surfing the web. As per the report, about a third of internet users in India were attacked by web-borne threats between the July-September period of this year.



General Manager of Kaspersky Lab South Asia, Shrenik Bhayani says, "It is known that money is the main motivation behind a cyberattack, and India being one of the largest and developing populations cannot afford to be vulnerable online. We need to be more aware and more secure online".

## 2. India ascended to 23 places in the 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking by World Bank

The report released by World Bank said that India has moved up to 23 places to the 77<sup>th</sup> position in the (World Bank's) 'ease of doing business' ranking. Last year, India was ranked 100<sup>th</sup> in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report, moving up from 131<sup>th</sup> position that it recorded in 2016.



However, US-based think-tank Centre for Global Development (CDG) noted that, much of India's rise in 2017 came as a result of methodological changes carried out by the World Bank. In the 'Doing Business' 2019 report, the World Bank has also confirmed India improved on six of the 10 parameters relating to starting and doing business in a country.

The parameters included in preparing such report are ease of starting a business, construction permits, getting electricity, getting credit, paying taxes, trade across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

## 3. Bengaluru tops the most congested city report

As per the recent research report prepared by the US-based organization, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), in the list of top 20, Bengaluru is ranked first, followed by Mumbai (2<sup>nd</sup>), Delhi (3<sup>rd</sup>), Chennai (4<sup>th</sup>), and Kolkata (5<sup>th</sup>); Bhopal being the last.

The list was named as 'Mobility & Congestion in Urban India" and contains top 20 cities.

The Bureau also prepared top 20 slowest cities in terms of traffic speed where Kolkata stood first followed by Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.



However, for the complete list, check out the following table:

	<b>20 Most Congested Cities</b>	<b>20 Slowest Cities (Traffic Speed)</b>	<b>10 Fastest Cities (Traffic Speed)</b>
<b>1</b>	Bengaluru	Kolkata	Ranipet
<b>2</b>	Mumbai	Bengaluru	Srinagar
<b>3</b>	Delhi	Hyderabad	Kayamkulam
<b>4</b>	Chennai	Mumbai	Jammu
<b>5</b>	Kolkata	Varanasi	Thrissur
<b>6</b>	Hyderabad	Patna	Palakkad
<b>7</b>	Pune	Delhi	Chandigarh
<b>8</b>	Jaipur	Bhagalpur	Alwar
<b>9</b>	Coimbatore	Bihar Sharif	Thoothukkudi
<b>10</b>	Ahmedabad	Chennai	Panipat
<b>11</b>	Patna	Muzaffarpur	
<b>12</b>	Chandigarh	Aligarh	
<b>13</b>	Kochi	Darbhanga	
<b>14</b>	Thiruvananthapuram	English Bazar (West Bengal)	
<b>15</b>	Begusarai	Gaya	
<b>16</b>	Kozhikode	Prayagraj (Allahabad)	
<b>17</b>	Nagpur	Ranchi	
<b>18</b>	Ranchi	Dhanbad	
<b>19</b>	Vijayawada	Akola	
<b>20</b>	Bhopal	Pune	

#### 4. Pneumonia & diarrhea progress report 2018

As per the research report published by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, girls under the age of five in rural and poorer urban localities continue to lose out on vaccinations. The data shows that there is gender gap, as the appearance of boys under five is greater than the number of girls under five for vaccination.



Furthermore, as per the report, India's vaccination scheme is designed to prevent rotavirus infection, which is a leading cause of severe diarrhoea in young children, and was the lowest among 15 countries. It also pointed out that India lost over 2.6 lakh children under five years from pneumonia and diarrhoea in 2016.

The report concluded that the health systems falling "woefully short" in ensuring that the most vulnerable children have access to prevention and treatment services in the 15 countries including India, that account for 70 per cent of global pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths in children under the age of five.

#### 5. BhubaneswarMe Wi-Fi launched

Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha has launched the City Wide Wi-Fi Project, which is titled as "BhubaneswarMe Wi-Fi" by the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL). This service is available across the city.



On the launching day, 100 hotspots with 275 Access Points (APs) went live. These hotspots are located in major locations between KIIT Square to Governor House, Acharya Vihar to AG Square, Sishu Bhawan to Vani Vihar, and Nalco Square to Acharya Vihar. The capacity of one Wi-Fi hotspot is to handle about 150 users at a given point in time and the speed will be 2 Mega Bytes per Second (MBPS). In a day, 250 MB free data will be given to any user who registers on it.

The Phase-I was launched with 100 hotspots (Wi-Fi networks). Phase II would add 100 more locations; and in the Phase-III, total 518 hotspots would be set up across the city to complete the City Wide Wi-Fi Network. Likewise, with all three phases, the city will have 1,800 APs.

#### 6. Iceland - the safest place to visit

As per a report, Iceland is the safest place for a holiday, followed by UAE, Singapore, Spain, Australia, and Canada.

The researchers have collected specific data from different reliable sources such as analyzed crime statistics from the World Economic Fund, natural disaster risk assessments from the World Risk Report, health risk data from the NHS Fit for Travel site and terrorism risk levels from the Foreign Office and finally prepared the list of safest places to go on a holiday.



- Iceland ranked at the top because of 'extremely' low rate of crime and it has one of the lowest probabilities of a natural disaster.
- UAE ranked second because of having popular destination, Dubai and having low risk of crime and disaster, but there is (likely) terrorist attack i.e. with least chance.
- Singapore ranked third; however, researchers have noted that it has a moderate risk of zika virus.
- Spain ranked at fourth and Australia at fifth.

## 7. India to overtake US to be 2<sup>nd</sup> largest carbon emitter

As per the report published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in World Energy Outlook, soon India will overtake the US to become the world's second-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide from the power sector most likely before 2030. This is because of the very high demand of electricity in India.



The Paris based agency IEA says that carbon dioxide emissions from India's power sector are expected to rise closely by 80 percent by 2040 as power use almost triples, driven in part by air conditioning; however, China will remain the biggest emitter.

Surprisingly, in spite of having high power demand and emissions, India's per-capita electricity consumption will remain one of the world's lowest.

# 10. Current Affairs – Appointments

## 1. PCI Security Standards Council appointed Nitin Bhatnagar as India Head

A global standards body for the payment card industry, the PCI Security Standards Council (PCI - SSC), has appointed Nitin Bhatnagar as Associate Director, India. As part of his new role and duty, Mr. Bhatnagar will head PCI - SSC's India and expected to make outreach efforts to give its service to untouched part. He will also be responsible for driving awareness and adoption of the PCI security standards for the payment card security within India.



Mr. Bhatnagar was previously working with SISA Information Security as Associate Vice President (AVP) will closely work with merchants, acquirers, financial institutions, security practitioners, law enforcement, and other key stakeholders across the Indian payment ecosystem to promote PCI standards.

### About PCI

PCI SSC is a set of security standards, which is designed to ensure that all companies dealing with credit card information maintain a secure environment. Now, PCI SSC has focus on India as a priority market because of its expanding economy and emphasis on cybersecurity.

## 2. Vijay Kumar Bist sworn in as Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court

Justice Bist, a senior judge of the Uttarakhand High Court, has been elevated to the post of Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court. Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad administered his oath and affirmation at Ashirwad Hall of Raj Bhavan.

Born in 1957 at Powdi Garwal district in Uttarakhand, Mr. Bist received his degree in law from Allahabad University and enrolled himself with the Bar Council in 1984. Subsequently, Mr. Bist started his law practice at Allahabad High Court. In 2008, he was appointed as one of the judges in Uttarakhand High Court.



## 3. President assented four judges' appointment in Supreme Court

Justice Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah, and Ajay Rastogi have sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court.

The President of India had given his assent to elevate Justice Gupta, Reddy, Shah, and Rastogi as the judges of the Apex Court; the names of these four judges were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.



- Justice Gupta was the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High court.
- Justice Reddy was the Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court.
- Justice Shah was the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, Bihar.
- Justice Rastogi was the Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court.

Likewise, the total number of judges in Supreme Court has reached to 28; however, the total (official) strength of the Supreme Court is 31.

#### **4. Dinkar Asthana appointed as Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Dinkar Asthana has been confirmed as the next Ambassador of India to Lao People's Democratic Republic. He is the 1990 batch IFS officer, currently working as the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.



#### **5. Gaddam Dharmendra appointed as India's Ambassador to Iran**

Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed Mr. Gaddam Dharmendra's appointment as India's Ambassador to Iran. This 1990 batch IFS officer is currently working as an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

His appointment to Iran is one of his biggest achievements, however it is also a biggest assignment for him because of the global focus on Iran with regards to oil imports. The reason is US has imposed "the toughest ever" sanctions with the purpose to alter the Iranian regime's behavior.



However, India and China are most likely among the eight countries who have been given rare temporary exemptions from the Iranian sanctions.

#### **7. Nina Tshering La appointed as Ambassador of India to DRC**

Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed Nina Tshering La's appointment as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is the first Indian Ambassador who is appointed from the Darjeeling Gorkha community.



Smt Nina completed her schooling from Loreto Convent Darjeeling and completed her Master's degree in the French language from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

### **8. Sanjay Kumar Verma appointed as Ambassador of India to Japan**

Ministry of External Affairs has confirmed Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma's appointment as India's Ambassador to Japan. He is a 1988 batch IFS officer currently working as an Additional Secretary at Headquarters.



### **9. First chairperson of Meghalaya Lokayukta appointed**

Retired Gauhati High Court judge Pranoy Kumar Musahary has been sworn in as the first chairperson of Lokayukta in Meghalaya. Governor Tathagata Roy administered his oath of office to Justice (retd.) Musahary at a function in the Raj Bhavan.



The Lokayukta is empowered to probe allegations of corruption against public functionaries including the chief minister, deputy chief minister, ministers, speaker and deputy speaker of Assembly, MLAs, besides government officials.

### **10. Ashok Kumar Gupta appointed as Chairman of CCI**

Former IAS officer Ashok Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the Chairman of the Competition of Commission of India (CCI), confirmed by the Corporate Affairs Ministry. Mr. Gupta will replace the Acting Chairman, Sudhir Mital.



Mr. Gupta, a former IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, would receive a consolidated salary of Rs. 4,50,000 per month; however, no other facility, such as house and car will be given.

### 11. Abhay Kumar to be the next Ambassador of India to Madagascar

Abhay Kumar was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Madagascar. He is a 2003 batch IFS officer, who is presently the DCM, EOI, Brasilia.



### 12. Siddharth Tiwari appointed as Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced Siddharth Tiwari as the Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Tiwari succeeds the present Chief Representative, Eli Remolona, who had been serving this post since 2008. He is based in the BIS's Representative Office for Asia and the Pacific in Hong Kong SAR. In this role, Mr. Tiwari will work to strengthen cooperation between the BIS and central banks in Asia and the Pacific. He will also make efforts to enhance understanding of issues that are important to central banks and supervisors in the region, contributing significantly to the BIS's global work on central bank cooperation and financial stability issues.



### 13. Abhay Thakur to be Next High Commissioner of India to Nigeria

Abhay Thakur appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. 1992 batch IFS officer Mr. Thakur, at present, is the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius and soon will depart the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



### 14. Sunil Arora appointed as Chief Election Commissioner

The Election Commissioner Sunil Arora has been appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner and is likely to take charge as the CEC on December 2, 2018.

A 1980 batch IAS officer, Mr. Sunil Arora was appointed as the Election Commissioner in September 2018. Earlier, he was acting as the Union Information and Broadcasting Secretary, and Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.



# 11. Current Affairs – Awards

## 1. Sanjoy Gaddipati - Proud Recipient of FINEXT Award

Sanjoy Gaddipati, the Founder, CEO, and Managing Director of International CryptoX Pte. Ltd, INCX, has received Excellence in FINEXT Award 2018 at the Finextcon conference held at Las Vegas in USA.

The Finextcon 2018 awards have recognized the innovative, creative and successful projects in financial technology from all around the world. This awards celebrated the success stories of the companies in the financial markets.



### What is INCX?

INCX is a world class ultra-scalable crypto currency trading platform, which is claimed to be the world's fastest crypto exchange with simple, compliant and highly secure features. It offers other unique features and would be Asia's first FIAT Crypto bridge. INCX has offices in many countries including India, USA, Singapore, and recently opened its office at Malta.

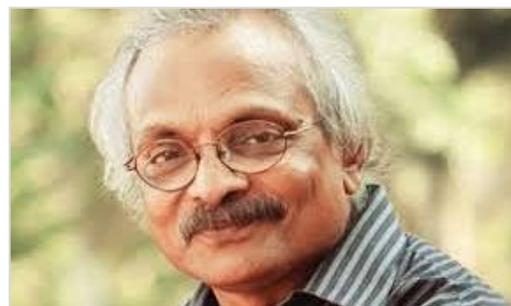
International Crypto Exchange (INCX) is all set to open its crypto currency exchange to the global community. The INCX platform is uniquely dignified with its cutting-edge technology platform features such as:

- Secure Development Lifecycle (SDL)
- Efficient matching algorithm for trading
- 2.4 million Transactions per Second (TPS) per crypto pair (100+ million TPS overall)
- Average latency of 0.4 Microseconds per order

## 2. The Malayalam Writer Mukundan nominated for Ezhuthachan Award - 2018

The eminent Malayalam novelist and short story writer Mr. M Mukundan has been nominated for the Kerala government's highest literary award 'Ezhuthachan Puraskaram.' He has been chosen for his overall contributions to the Malayalam literature.

Originally from Mahe, a former French colony and an enclave of Union Territory of Puducherry in Kerala, Mukundan is popular as "Mayyazhiyude Kathakaran" (storyteller of Mayyazhi - Mahe).



### 3. *Pather Panchali* listed as best foreign language films on BBC list

*Pather Panchali*, Satyajit Ray's epic masterpiece, has been included in BBC's list of 100 best foreign language films and surprisingly, it is the only Bollywood film (from India) to be featured in it.



*Pather Panchali* was released in 1955 and the first in his "Apu" trilogy, was placed at number 15 in the BBC list. This list was culled out from a poll where over 200 critics from 43 countries picked a foreign language film.

In the list of 100, "27 of the highest-rated films were in French, followed by 12 in Mandarin, and 11 each in Italian and Japanese."

### 4. N. Ram chosen for Ram Mohan Roy Award

Mr. N. Ram, a Veteran Journalist and The Hindu publishing group chairman, has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award. The awarded is presented by the Press Council of India (PCI), for the outstanding contribution towards the journalism.



Besides, the PCI also confirmed that the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism for 2018 and Ruby Sarkar, Chief Correspondent of *Deshbandhu*, Bhopal, and Rajesh Parshuram Joshte of *Daily Pudhari*, Ratnagiri, have been named joint winners for 'Rural Journalism'.

### 5. The only Asian film screened at the Rome Film Festival - 'Mere Pyaare Prime Minister'

The Official Selection of the Rome Film Fest has presented three productions from three different continents. From Asia, it was Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's directorial film 'Mere Pyaare Prime Minister,' which was screened in Sala Petrassi. The film gathered an exceptional response with a standing ovation along with 4-star reviews at the event.



Mr. Mehra's upcoming film 'Mere Pyaare Prime Minister' has been creating waves worldwide even before its release. This film deals with the social issue of open defecation.

### 6. FICCI confirmed Lifetime Achievement Award 2018 to Dr. Ramdas M Pai

In recognition of his enormous contributions in the fields of Education and Healthcare, Dr. Ramdas M Pai has been given Lifetime Achievement Award, 2018 by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).



Dr. Ramdas M Pai, is a Padma Bhushan awardee 2011, Chairman Emeritus – Manipal Education and Medical Group, and President & founding Pro Chancellor of Sikkim Manipal University.

Dr. Pai has contributed greatly to making the Manipal Brand a respected and trusted name not just in India but internationally as well. Therefore, the citation has described him as an epitome of dedication and perseverance.

## 7. Anupam Kher receives 'Distinguished Fellow' Award

Veteran actor Anupam Kher has been honored as a 'Distinguished Fellow' by **IndiaGlobal** - a leading think-tank. It is an organization that works on the issues relating to non-resident Indians.



Mr. Kher has received this award on November 3, 2018 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IndiaGlobal Summit, which was held at the prestigious MIT Sloan School of Management in Boston. The summit was facilitated by MIT Sloan India Business Club.

## 8. Bengaluru Teen Won \$400,000 Prize

Sixteen-year old Samay Godika, who is a city school student, has won the fourth annual "Breakthrough Junior Challenge", a global science video competition. Soon he will receive \$400,000 as educational prize for himself, his teacher, and his school, as he emerged as the winner.



A Class 11 student of National Public School, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Samay Godika represented the country and his school at the Breakthrough Junior Challenge this year and brought back the ultimate, science prize worth of Rs 2.9 crore for his video submitted in the life sciences category on circadian rhythms, which are physical, mental, and behavioural changes that follow a daily cycle. Samay won the award competing with 13 other finalists among roughly 8,000 entries.

Breakthrough Junior Challenge is a global science video competition premeditated to inspire creative thinking about fundamental concepts in the life sciences, mathematics, and physics.

## 9. Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018 secured place in Guinness Book of World Records

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh designed this year grand Diwali plans for Uttar Pradesh, as a result of which, the state pulled the global attention; likewise, the Ayodhya Deepotsav 2018 made its way into the Guinness Book of World Record. In this Deepotsav, 301,152 diyas, or earthen lamps, were lit on the banks of River Sarayu.



On the occasion, South Korean First Lady Kim Jung-sook, who was also the chief guest at the same event, arrived in Ayodhya to attend Diwali festivities and began her tour by offering tribute at the Queen Heo Memorial. Kim toured the site, along with Adityanath, and attended a ground-breaking ceremony for upgrade and beautification of the memorial dedicated to the legendary princess of Ayodhya who went to Korea. Ayodhya and Korea share a profound historical connection through Ayodhya's Princess Suriratna, who married Korean King Suro in 48 CE.

## 10. Arunima Sinha, who conquered Everest, receives Honorary Doctorate in the UK

Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the first amputee woman in the world to climb Mount Everest in 2013, has been awarded an honorary Doctorate by a prestigious UK university for her inspirational achievements.



The 30 years old Ms. Sinha, has been conferred with the honorary doctorate by the University of Strathclyde at a graduation ceremony in Glasgow on Tuesday. She was honored in the Barony Hall for her inspirational achievements in mountaineering.

## 11. Anand Kumar, Founder of Super 30 receives Global Education Award in Dubai

Anand Kumar, the Mathematician and the Founder of Super 30 has been awarded the 'Global Education Award' for his "revolutionary" contributions in the field of education and illuminating the lives of many talented students.

45 years old, Mr. Kumar has been honored with 'Global Education Award' by 'Malabar Gold & Diamonds', flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading Indian business conglomerate.



P A Ibrahim Haji, co-chairman Malabar Group, said that a 12-member jury shortlisted Mr. Kumar from a list of 100 names working in the field of education across the globe after a three-month research and consequent deliberations. Further he said that Anand Kumar has done a lot through Super 30 to bring about a

generational change in those families and become an inspiration for the poor worldwide to pursue education to ward off poverty. It has underlined the power of education to transform lives.

## 12. Centre Awards Assam Police for Citizen Services

The Union government has honored the Assam Police for "good practices" under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS). It is an e-governance project. The award was given for the citizen centric service delivery, in which the state police has automated passport verification and Permanent Residential Certificate (PRC) services by using the online CCTNS.



The Ministry of Home Affairs has also awarded Anil Kumar Jha, Special Director General (CID) of the force, for his outstanding contribution in implementing the project.

## 13. Jawahar Lal Sarin conferred with France's Highest Civilian Honor

Jawahar Lal Sarin, the President of the governing body of Alliance Française, has been conferred with France's Highest Civilian Honor by French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler at an event.

France's highest civilian honor 'Knight of the Legion of Honor' has been bestowed on Sarin in recognition of his outstanding contribution to enhancing Indo-French cultural cooperation and promoting the French language.



## 14. Indian Journalist won Press Freedom Award

Swati Chaturvedi, an Indian freelance journalist, who has been the target of online trolling and harassment for her investigative reports, has conferred the '2018 London Press Freedom Award' for her Courage.

Swati Chaturvedi also authored the book namely 'I am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army', beat shortlisted journalists from Italy, Turkey, and Morocco for her work that exposed the "IT cell" within the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for keeping an army of angry trolls.



Chaturvedi said, "This means a lot. But I think it is very sad that you have to win an award for courage just for doing your job."

## 15. Winners announced for the 2018 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

The renewal of the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Shijo-cho Ofune-hoko Float Machiya has received the Award of Excellence by UNESCO. This is the part of UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The Jury praised the Award of Excellence winner, Shijo-cho Ofune-hoko Float Machiya, for "celebrating Kyoto culture through safeguarding of the city's endangered wooden townhouse typology as well as the iconic annual Gion Festival.



In this year's award, ten projects from five countries – China, Australia, India, Japan, and Thailand – have been recognized by an International Jury of Conservation Experts. The Jury met in August in Penang, Malaysia to review 41 entries from eight countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

**About UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme recognizes the focused efforts of private individuals and organizations that have successfully conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the given geographic region. Therefore, the awards aimed to encourage other property owners to undertake conservation projects within their communities, either independently or by seeking public-private partnerships.



Further, the awarded projects illustrate a clear understanding and application of various criteria, such as the understanding of the place, technical achievement, and the project's social and policy impact.

**16. Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta scales Mt Giluwe in Papua New Guinea**

Indian mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta became the first Indian to climb Mt Giluwe, the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea. Mr. Satyarup has reached the summit of the mountain, which is at an elevation of 4,367 meters.



Including this, Satya now has scaled 5 of the 7 volcanic summits. In a few days, he will set out to summit Mt Wilhelm – the highest mountain of Papua New Guinea. After completing this, Satya - who is on a mission to popularize adventure sports among young Indians – would become the first from India to scale these two mountains.

### 17. Dr. Martha Farrell honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Indian Social Work Congress in New Delhi, late Dr. Martha Farrell has been honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." Dr. Farrell has been recognized for her lifelong work towards gender equality, women's empowerment, and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.



Dr. Farrell was among the 14 people killed in a terrorist attack on a guest house in Kabul, Afghanistan on May 13, 2015 when she was on a gender training workshop mission with the Aga Khan Foundation in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Martha began her career in 1981 as a literacy worker at Ankur. Ankur is a Delhi based NGO working for women's literacy and empowerment. In 1991, she co-founded Creative Learning for Change, an NGO consisting of development professionals. The major works were research, training and documentation of learning materials for students, teachers and facilitators in non-formal settings.

### 18. Azim Premji conferred with Highest French Civilian Honour

Wipro Chairman Azim Premji was conferred with Highest French Civilian Honour. The award has been honored to Azim Premji for his outstanding contribution to developing the information technology industry in India, his economic outreach in France, and his laudable contribution to society as a philanthropist (by Azim Premji Foundation and Azim Premji University).



The Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), which has been instituted in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.

# 12. Current Affairs – Persons in News

## 1. Anupam Kher resigns as chairperson of FTII

The veteran actor Anupam Kher resigned from his position as chairperson of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) with a valid reason that - for him it is becoming difficult to cope with his professional commitments and discharging his responsibilities.



In his resignation letter to Information and Broadcasting Minister, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore,

Mr. Kher mentioned that he would remain in the United States for “nearly nine months (between 2018 and 2019) and later for a minimum of three years because of his commitment to the NBC series, New Amsterdam.

Therefore, he said that in the given circumstances, it would be unfair for him to hold a position of such responsibility and accountability, without being actively involved in the operations.

## 2. Amnesty striped Aung San Suu Kyi of 'Ambassador of Conscience' Award

Amnesty International broadcasted that it has withdrawn its highest honor, i.e. the 'Ambassador of Conscience award,' from Aung San Suu Kyi, in light of the Myanmar leader's shameful betrayal of the values she once stood for. Suu Kyi had been honored with 'Ambassador of Conscience Award' in 2009 for her excellency when she languished under house arrest (in 2009).



Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty's Secretary General, has written to Aung San Suu Kyi to inform her the organization is revoking the 2009 award. Kumi Naidoo stated, “As an Amnesty International Ambassador of Conscience, our expectation was that you would continue to use your moral authority to speak out against injustice wherever you saw it, not least within Myanmar itself.

“Today, we are profoundly dismayed that you no longer represent a symbol of hope, courage, and the undying defence of human rights. Amnesty International cannot justify your continued status as a recipient of the Ambassador of Conscience award and so with great sadness we are hereby withdrawing it from you.”

Further, Naidoo added, “Aung San Suu Kyi's failure to speak out for the Rohingya is one reason why we can no longer justify her status as an Ambassador of Conscience.

“Her denial of the gravity and scale of the atrocities means there is little prospect of the situation improving for the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya living in limbo in Bangladesh or for the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who remain in Rakhine. Without acknowledgement of the horrific crimes against the community, it is hard to see how the government can take steps to protect them from future atrocities.”

### 3. Barcelona's Lionel Messi honored with La Liga 2017-18 Player of the Year Award

Barcelona published that Lionel Messi was declared the Spanish football league's best player of the 2017-18 campaign by Marca at an awards ceremony in Barcelona on Monday.



Earlier, Messi also won the Pichichi Trophy at the ceremony, an award given to the top scorer in La Liga each year. Besides, Atletico Madrid's goalkeeper Jan Oblak was named the goalkeeper of the year. Born in June 1987, Lionel Messi is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward and captains both Spanish club Barcelona and the Argentina national team.

#### About La Liga Awards

The La Liga Awards, previously known as the LFP Awards, are annually presented by the Liga de Fútbol Profesional (LFP) to the best players and coach in La Liga, the first division of association football in Spain.

### 4. The United States Attorney General, Jeff Sessions resigns

The United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions has resigned from the post at the request of President Donald Trump. Temporarily, an acting attorney general was appointed by the president as Sessions's temporary replacement.



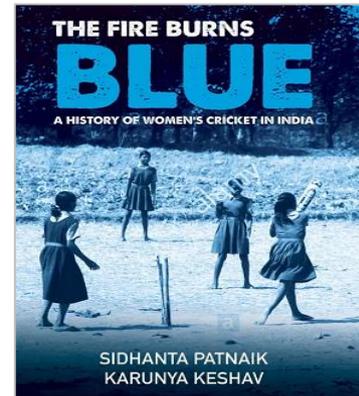
After this, the President Trump tweeted, “We are pleased to announce that Matthew G. Whitaker, Chief of Staff to Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the Department of Justice, will become our new Acting Attorney General of the United States. He will serve our Country well (sic)”. We thank Attorney General Jeff Sessions for his service, and wish him well! A permanent replacement will be nominated at a later date”.

# 13. Current Affairs – Books & Authors

## 1. Book on History of Women's Cricket

The book titled as 'The Fire Burns Blue: A History of Women's Cricket in India', which is co-authored by sports journalists Karunya Keshav and Sidhanta Pathak is published.

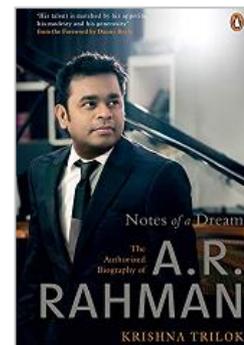
As per the authors report, this book is an elaborate narrative of the game, right from its origin to the present day. This book also carries rare photographs in a bid to reiterate the highs and lows of the early years of women's cricket. Besides, the book also describes "twist and turns" of women's cricket, including the early days of pioneers like Diana Eduljee and Shantha Rangaswamy (in the early '70s) and the today's stars like Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur.



## 2. Penguin Random House publishes AR Rahman's Biography

Delhi-based Penguin Random House has published "Notes of a Dream: The Authorized Biography of AR Rahman". The book is written by Chennai-based writer Krishna Trilok. The book covers the "nostalgia, the drama and the extraordinary success story" of Rahman.

Winner of national and international awards, including the Oscars and Grammy, the Mozart of Madras discloses his philosophies: hope, perseverance, positivity and love. The book would have Rahman's early days' story as a composer of advertisement jingles, his first big break into feature films, his experiments with the new technology, and more.



## 3. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu releases book on yoga and mindfulness

Mansi Gulati, the yoga exponent and author launched her new book, 'Yoga and Mindfulness' in association with Public Diplomacy Forum. The book is launched by Honorable Vice President of India, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of other eminent persons including Dr. Sonal Mansingh, Shri Manoj Tewari, ambassadors and diplomats.

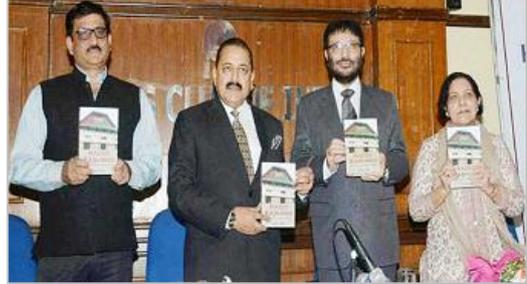
Mansi Gulati said that her book 'Yoga and Mindfulness' was the simplest study on the subject, which is based on the fact that yoga is not mere *asanas*, but everything done with mindfulness and dedication.



#### 4. Dr. Jitendra Singh released book 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War'

The book titled as 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War', and written by Rajesh Bhat was released by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

On this occasion, Dr. Singh said that reporting of radio in Jammu and Kashmir has its own significance and the radio has evolved from a small set up to a level of influencing the lives of people in remote areas.



# 14. Current Affairs – Death

## 1. Veteran Freedom Fighter passed away

V. Rathinam, a veteran freedom fighter and the member of Indian National Army (INA) led by Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose, died. He was born on August 16, 1919, and was the native of S. Kodikulam in Paramakudi block, Rathinam.

He had moved to Burma when he was a bachelor and joined the INA during the Second World War in the early 1940s. After completing the training program, he was inducted into the INA and fought against the British.



## 2. Manohar Prahlad Awati passed away

Vice Admiral (retired) Manohar Prahlad Awati, an icon in the history of Indian Navy, has died in his native village Vinchurni in Satara district. He was 91 years old. Mr. Awati was also popular as the father of Indian Navy's circumnavigation adventures.

In 1945, Awati was selected for the Royal Indian Navy. A specialist in signal communication, he had served on Indian naval ships such as Ranjit, Vendurthy, Betwa, Tir and Mysore. From 1976 to 1977, he was the Commandant of the National Defence Academy where he made it a point to attend every passing out parade of the Academy till as late as May this year.



## 3. Ananth Kumar, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, passes away

H.N. Ananth Kumar, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, and Chemicals and Fertilizers, also a senior BJP leader from the State passed away at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

A six-time member of parliament from Bengaluru South Lok Sabha seat, Mr. Kumar was representing it continuously since 1996.



#### **4. Justice S N Phukan, Former SC Judge passes away**

Justice S N Phukan, the Former Supreme Court Judge passed away at a private hospital at Jorhat, Assam. He was 81 years old. He was a judge at the Supreme Court from January 28, 1999 to April 1, 2002.

He started his law practice in Guwahati in 1962. After one year, he joined the Assam Judicial Service and in July, 1970, he joined the Meghalaya government and worked in the Law Department.



#### **5. Senior AIR Broadcaster Ashutosh Jain passes away**

Ashutosh Jain, the senior Hindi News Reader of All India Radio, has died in New Delhi at the age of 60. He joined the AIR in 1989 in Chandigarh and retired from Delhi in April 2018.



# 15. Current Affairs – Places in News

## 1. 2018 Pushkar Camel Fair

Thousands of camels from different regions arrived in the tiny desert town of **Pushkar**, located in Rajasthan, the western state of India, for the annual Pushkar Fair. The Pushkar is fascinating and peculiar sight, and a fascinating opportunity to witness an old traditional-style Indian festival.



The creative intention behind the Pushkar Camel Fair is to attract local camel and cattle traders to exercise business during the holy Kartik Purnima festival, usually held in Pushkar around the full moon in the Hindu lunar month of *Kartika*.

## 2. Bhubaneswar - 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup

The 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup is the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Hockey World Cup tournament, which was held at the Kalinga Stadium located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



The inauguration ceremony which was held on November 27, 2018, witnessed the biggest ever drone flying show in India.

## 3. Texas - Austin Celtic Festival

Celebrated in Austin, the capital of Texas state of the United States, Austin Celtic Festival is a 2-day event held in the first week of November 2018. This event displays products like the highest quality regional and international Celtic artists with an extraordinary lineup of talent, celtic dance, exciting Heavy Games competition, the Celtic ancestry of some of today's dog breeds with our Celtic Dog Parades.



# 16. Current Affairs – Sports

## 1. Pankaj Advani won Asian Snooker Tour Title

Nineteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani has won the second leg of the Asian Snooker Title held in Jinan, China. Advani has given tough competition to outclass China's Ju Reti by 6-1 in the final. Advani now has become the first Indian to win an Asian Snooker Tour event.



## 2. Dravid receives Hall of Fame Award

Former India captain Rahul Dravid has formally been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame by receiving the commemorative cap from fellow ICC Cricket Hall of Fame Sunil Gavaskar. Dravid's name was announced for such honor in July this year with Australian Legendary Ricky Ponting and England women's stalwart Claire Taylor.



It is an honor for Dravid, who is known as the most selfless and gentlest of the men ever to have graced the game. After scoring total 13288 runs in Tests and 10889 runs in ODIs, he convincingly transformed himself into hugely successful coach. He is still continuing to do a great job as the mentor of India's A and Under-19 players.

## 3. Former Australian Cricket Captain Mark Taylor resigned

Former Australian Captain Mark Taylor has resigned from Cricket Australia's (CA) Board of Directors. It may be because of the fallout from a sarcastic review into the governing body's culture claimed another victim.



Likewise, Mark Taylor became the third member of the Australian Cricket Board who resigned in the last six months. Before him, Chairman David Peever and former Director Bob Every have resigned their respective positions.

The 54-year-old Taylor and the board's longest-serving director, said that he had been struggling to sleep soundly since the findings of the review were released a week ago.

## 4. Rohit Sharma becomes first player to hit four T20 International centuries

Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma became the first ever player to score 4 centuries in the shortest format of the game T20. Mr. Sharma achieved this during the second T20 International match between India and West Indies.

The Mumbai batsman scored his fourth T20 International ton in just 58 balls. Earlier he had slammed centuries against South Africa, Sri Lanka, and England.



### 5. India win two bronze medals in Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup

Indian gymnasts have won two bronze medals in the men's and women's group events of the FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Siddhesh Bhosle, Prins Aris, Rushikesh More, and Rejilesh Suribabu finished third after scoring 20.560 in the two-day event to secure the bronze medal at the National Gymnastics Arena. However, the counterpart, Russian gymnasts won both gold and silver.



### 6. Wasim Jaffer became first to score 11,000 run milestone in Ranji Trophy

Wasim Jaffer, the Veteran first-class cricketer has become the first Indian batsman to score the 11,000-run in the Ranji Trophy. The Vidharbha batsman has achieved the milestone during the third-round match against Baroda held in Nagpur at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium.

Maintaining his rich vein of form, the right-hand batsman played an impressive knock of 153 off 284 balls runs in the first innings of the ongoing match, taking his team to a 400-plus total.



# 17. Current Affairs – Important Days

## 1. November 1 - 33<sup>rd</sup> Army Aviation Day celebrated

Army Aviation Corps have celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> Raising Day on November 1, 2018. It is an occasion when a Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, New Delhi.

This ceremonial wreath has been laid by Lieutenant General (Kanwal Kumar), Colonel Commandant and Director General of Army Aviation, along with a host of serving officers, soldiers and veterans in attendance.



## 2. November 2 - The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is a UN-recognized day observed every year on November 2. On November 2, organizations and individuals worldwide are encouraged to talk about the unresolved cases in their countries, and write to government and intra-governmental officials to demand action and justice (to resolve the unresolved cases).

The day draws attention to the low global conviction rate for violent crimes against the journalists and media workers, which is estimated at only one in every ten cases. In fact, these individuals play a critical role by informing, awakening, and influencing the public about important social issues, and other development of the country and world; in such a case, impunity for attacks against them has a particularly damaging impact, limiting public awareness and constructive debate.



## 3. November 5 - Ayurveda Day Celebrated

Though Ministry of AYUSH observes Ayurveda Day every year on *Dhanawantari Jayanti* (i.e. Dhanteras) but this year, Ayurveda Day is observed on November 5, 2018. On this occasion, the Ministry organized a "National Seminar on Entrepreneurship and Business

Development in Ayurveda” in association with NITI Aayog on November 4th & 5th at Dr. Ambedkar International centre, Janapath, New Delhi.

The purpose was to encourage entrepreneurs and Ayurveda stakeholders towards businesses opportunities in the sector. About 800 participants from all across the country have participated in the main function of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ayurveda day.



#### 4. November 6 - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is annually observed on November 6. The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was established on November 5, 2001 during Kofi Atta Annan's tenure as Secretary-General, the United Nations General Assembly.



#### 5. November 20 - Universal Children’s Day

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Universal Children’s Day is celebrated to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare.

November 20<sup>th</sup> is a special date because on this date in 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition to this, since 1990, Universal Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the declaration and the convention on children's rights.



#### 6. November 20 - Africa Industrialization Day

On November 20, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly celebrated the “Africa Industrialization Day” with the theme, “Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa’s structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production”.



Furthermore, the organization highlighted the opportunity to identify innovative, solution-driven actions and policies to advance pharmaceutical production in the continent. It also planned to emphasize on promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa.